

Multifunction Data Port – Third Amendment (June 14, 2005)
U.S. Patent Appln. Ser. No. 09/667,408

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATIONS

Please amend page 1 as follows:

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Please amend the paragraph on page 21 under the heading Related Applications of the amendment to the specifications (that was amended April 23, 2004)

Related Applications:

The present application for a U.S. patent is a continuation in part of now abandoned U.S. national phase patent application serial number 09/508,998, filed June 15, 2000, based on international application number PCT/US97/16426, filed September 17, 1997, from which priority is claimed; and claims priority from a U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/155,069, filed September 21, 1999[.].

Please amend page 1 of the application under the heading Field of the Invention, paragraph 1, as follows:

1. Field of the Invention

The invention is related to a data port and, more particularly, to a multifunction intelligent data port having a computer interface between a digital service network and a utility user's home electronics. The invention further relates to remote utility meter reading and remote load management, as well as telecommunications, Internet access and methods to provide secure digital transactions.

Please amend page 2 of the application under "2. Related Art", paragraph 4, as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 4,803,632 issued to Frew et al., incorporated herein by reference, discloses a utility meter having a CPU, a display, and associated circuitry which may be located in the conventional meter location. Frew also discloses a remote unit located inside the house

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Office actions citing numerous prior errors. A digital service provider or Internet service provider (ISP) has been included in figures 1, 2, 3, & 5 d. The specifications have been amended to remove errors of grammar, reference to numbers in the figures, and spelling. The figure 5 d has been revised to show the multifunction dataport mounted on the power pole. In figures 1, 3 and 5d the multifunction data port is coupled, but external to an utility electric meter.

The Examiner is asked to review the earlier objection of double patenting and determine if the revised claims in the present application still overlap with claims 1-37 of U.S. patent No. 5,699,276. If the Examiner determines that the revised claims for the multifunction data port of the present invention no longer overlap with the claims of the applicant's earlier '276 patent, the applicant requests permission to withdraw the terminal disclaimer that was filed by previous patent counsel

The applicant has attempted to clarify the differences between his earlier '276 patent for a meter-computer and the present invention of a multi-function data port. The applicant notes that it will soon be four years since this patent application was filed with the U.S. patent office and that said applicant is 78 years old. The applicant has attempted to answer and respond to all of the objections of the Examiner and prays that this patent application is now in condition for allowance.

The Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

Respectfully Submitted


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